WEB SITES ON A STICK: EPUB AND THE WEB CONVERGE

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based on a presentation by
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WHAT IS A BOOK?

- Printed?
- EPUB/e-book?
- HTML?

BUT...

- Why can't you read an ebook directly in a Web browser?
- Why can't you read a Web page in an ebook reader?
- Why can't you annotate a Web page?

AN E-BOOK IS A WEB SITE ON A STICK

- So let's make a digital book be the same as a set of offline Web sites
- This means fonts as well as scripts and styles.

WHO WILL DEFINE THIS?

- IDPF.org
- W3.org
- EPUB/Web paper `http://w3c.github.io/epubweb/`
- CSS/TAG Houdini Project (no docs yet)
- All of us

HACKING STANDARDS

- We can change the Web, we can change the future:
- W3C and IDPF will be working jointly;
- We use github for new specs these days;
- All issues get addressed, all pull requests are considered.
- You can be involved.

WHAT IS A BOOK (REDUX)

- A text or a program? It's fuzzy.
- If it doesn't work as intended maybe you glitched it?
- It's not text vs program, design vs art, it's all and all the time.
- Books as databases

WHAT DO WE (LGMERS) NEED?

- Licence/License identification
- Open plugin architecture
- Support for Open file formats (SVG, MathML, PNG, …)
- Multilingual (writing systems, fonts, hyphenation, vertical scripts…)
- Better browser support (e.g regions)
- More assimilation (HTML/XHTML, CSS, SVG, JS in libre tools)

SOME POINTERS

White paper:

http://w3c.github.io/epubweb/

Issue list:

https://github.com/w3c/epubweb/issues

These slides:

http://www.w3.org/Talks/2015/0214-digipub-xml-prague/

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TECHNICAL STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

- Pagination, Numbering, Indexing, Cross-references
  - Need to define a page
  - Linked regions and robust reference handling
  - Links between books
- Security and Privacy
  - Consensus needed: strict DRM, watermarking, social DRM etc.; may give us the framework for CC and GPL books
- Presentation control – traditions need to change
  - Browser: page author decides fonts, CSS etc.
  - eBook reader: user can switch fonts etc.